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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN
16 AUG 1972

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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

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USSR: The Soviet Navy has deployed the first of its two newly modified naval command ships.

The Zhdanov, a Sverdlov-class light cruiser, entered the Mediterranean on 11 August for the first time since it completed its lengthy modification at a Black Sea shipyard. It is now probably testing its ability to communicate at sea with naval shore headquarters and ships over long distances.

The Zhdanov's modification, which began about 1966, consists primarily of an upgraded capability for communications and self defense against aircraft. Only one of its four six-inch gun turrets was removed. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Zhdanov is fitted with numerous communications antennas not carried on standard Sverdlovs. Its new short-range defenses against aircraft consist of the retractable SA-N-4 surface-to-air missile and four rapid-fire 30-mm. twin gun mounts.

The Soviet Navy now has 11 active cruisers of the Sverdlov class. Of the 14 Sverdlovs completed between 1951 and 1955, one was scrapped, one was sold to Indonesia, and one is in mothballs. Eight of the active Sverdlovs retain their original main gun armament and one carries the SA-N-2 surface-to-air missile. Another Sverdlov, the Admiral Senyavin, underwent a command ship modification in 1967-71 at Vladivostok, but has not yet deployed from Soviet Pacific Fleet local waters. The USSR evidently regards its cruisers as something more than the "floating coffins" Krushchev called them. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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ARGENTINA: President Lanusse's troubles are multiplying as he tries to lay the groundwork for the presidential election next March.

Lanusse's difficulties in achieving agreement with Argentina's disparate political parties on organizing the election have been compounded by the resignation of one of his more popular cabinet ministers and a speech by his fellow junta member General Rey, which criticized Argentina's economic system. The Peronists and the political coalition they dominate, the Frente Civico, are refusing to meet with the government, since they sense that Lanusse's position may be shaky. Without the Peronists, an election would bring in a minority government. Juan Peron himself continues to threaten to return to Argentina, but this is such an unlikely development, in view of his fears of assassination, that his threats pose only a minor irritant to Lanusse.

Rey's attack on Argentina's free-market economy, which is troubled by inflation, and insistent pressure from some political and military sectors for increasing nationalization, may well have been a surprise to Lanusse. General Rey, as the number two man in the ruling junta, is supposed to succeed Lanusse in January, and rumbles that a chink has been opened in Lanusse's armor are already being heard.

Lanusse is trying to quiet the situation by easing pressure on the political parties to come to the bargaining table, but a dispute with General Rey may not be so easily papered over. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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ALGERIA: The Foreign Ministry is forging ahead with its own efforts to organize a conference of Mediterranean states.

Algeria's main purpose has been to create a bloc which would make its weight felt in a conference on European security. The Algerians believe that unless such a bloc is formed, the interests of non-European Mediterranean states would be overlooked or even bartered away by the major powers.

Unlike the proposal for a western Mediterranean grouping discussed recently by Italian and French leaders, the Algerians envisage a meeting of the foreign ministers of all Mediterranean states that are "outside blocs." In the Algerian context, this includes Yugoslavia, the Arab states, and France, but excludes Israel and also Italy, Greece, and Turkey, the latter three because of their membership in NATO. Moreover, the Algerians propose to discuss the security of the region, particularly means to remove both the American and Soviet fleets from the area. The western Mediterranean grouping, at least initially, would exclude any discussion of security problems.

After canvassing proposed invitees, the Algerians claim all eligible countries except France appear willing to attend such a conference early next year in Algiers. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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EGYPT: Leftist intellectuals are reportedly uneasy about their future in the wake of the ouster of the Soviet military mission.

According to contacts of the US Interests Section, leftist uneasiness is apparently being fed by reports that security forces have prepared a list of Soviet sympathizers to be imprisoned should President Sadat decide to move against them. Their concern probably has also been deepened by a draft law on national unity currently under consideration by the nation's legislature, the People's Assembly. The new law will provide the government with sweeping authority to move against opposition activity. One prominent intellectual voiced his concern over the bill in a newspaper article on 14 August, offering a reminder that Egyptian society "embodies more than one social force."

Security forces have for many years closely monitored the activities of the leftist community. Some individuals from this group have held prominent positions in the press and public media, but their influence within the power structure is minimal, and they do not appear to represent any real threat to the Sadat regime. As yet, there are no good indications that a regime crackdown is imminent, but pressure from rightist elements or a further deterioration in relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union might prompt Sadat to move against local Communist sympathizers at some future time. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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YUGOSLAVIA: Premier Bijedic has asserted that, despite the nation's decentralized political system, federal authorities are not limited to a passive role where vital economic issues are concerned.

Bijedic has proposed creation of an inter-republic commission to force resolution of problems of taxation and revenue distribution, as well as to coordinate the expansion of production. In a recent letter to republic and provincial leaders, he stated that failure to reach a consensus on these issues is a major stumbling block to Yugoslavia's economic stabilization program.

The proposed commission would join the five inter-republic bodies already in existence and should, from the tone of Bijedic's proposal, become a major organ for solving contentious economic problems. The distribution of tax revenue has been a particularly vexing question. It played a part in the Croatian political upheaval last year when officials in Zagreb balked not only at seeing a large share of the Croatian taxes siphoned off to lesser developed areas, but also at having no say in how these funds were to be distributed. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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BAHAMAS: Prime Minister Lynden Pindling has dissolved parliament and announced that new elections will be held on 19 September 1972. Dissension within Pindling's Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and growing dissatisfaction with the PLP's inability to halt the decline of the economy apparently prompted Pindling to decide that delay would work to the opposition's advantage. He also announced that the newly elected parliament's first act would be to propose complete independence from Great Britain in 1973, clearly indicating that independence will be an important campaign issue. Despite opposition efforts and economic problems, the PLP's emotional appeal is strong and may pull the PLP through to victory, although possibly with a reduced majority. (CONFIDENTIAL NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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